

2015 YALE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL



Your invitation to sign up for the
2015 Yale International Choral
Festival in New Haven
June 16-20, 2015.

Three years ago, we launched a new International Choral Festival at Yale, an undertaking of the Yale School of Music, the Yale Glee Club and the Yale Alumni Chorus.

The result was a smashing success!

The 200 participants had an unforgettable musical week, replete with concerts, symposia, cross-cultural exchanges with new friends from across the globe, and reunions with beloved singing friends from Yale.

This second iteration of the Festival in June of 2015 will build on the success of the first. This is your invitation to come back to campus and SING! Full details are reflected in this prospectus.

So read on and get ready for a very special time next June!

The 2015 Yale International Choral Festival will have many great features:

International cross-cultural exchange: There will be guest choruses from around the world, participating side by side with us for the duration of the festival from Tuesday through Saturday. Over 115 singers from noted choral groups of these countries will be joining us! Here is a quick rundown of the choruses who will attend the event:



Coro Entrevozes, Cuba: Everyone will enjoy the infectious enthusiasm of conductor Digna Guerra and her professional Entrevozes Choir. We are very fortunate that they have secured visas to travel to the Festival. It will be a total thrill to sing and dance with them, claves and all.

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJtwkgvtBA>

Yale Choral Artists, New Haven: Jeff Douma's incredible professional choir, comprised of some of the finest choral singers in the country, will be performing David Lang's *The National Anthems* at the Choral Festival, which premièred this past summer at Disney Hall. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqQc8YHB2og>



Voces Nordicae, Sweden: This cutting-edge, professional choir from Sweden combines choral singing with movement and theater. Very few will have seen or heard anything like this before, and they are making influential waves in the international choral scene. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuMnuUZfHDQ>

National University of Singapore Choir, Singapore: Most are familiar with the Yale initiative at the National University of Singapore. We are very fortunate to be joined by this esteemed University Choir, in the first of what we hope will be many cultural exchanges.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYhZXCg6DpA>



Jerusalem Youth Chorus, Jerusalem: In attendance at the last Yale International Choral Festival was recent Yale graduate Micah Hendler, who was soon off to Jerusalem to undertake a new project bringing together Israeli and Palestinian youth through choral singing. The success of his group and its mission has become all the more poignant in recent months, set in relief to the heightened tensions in the region. We are very fortunate to be welcoming them to the Festival on their international tour next year. A video produced in collaboration with Sam Tsui '11, has taken off in online views and beautifully represents the spirit of this group. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMkqMTK1_Oo
A wonderful piece in The Huffington Post speaks to the significance of this video: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/10/ymca-jerusalem-youth-chorus_n_5968274.html?utm_hp_ref=religion

The interactions with these choral groups will run deep. One of the requirements for participation this time around is that **all choruses attend for the entirety of the Festival**. We will work with their conductors, and we will perform with all of them. We'll sit with the Cubans while we watch the Swedes in concert, and discuss it with them afterwards. We will share meals with the Israelis and Palestinians at the same table. We will get to show the Singapore chorus the Yale campus. This is where lasting memories and friendships will be forged.

A world class singing experience: We are packing a TON of singing into the festival this year, with a program that will provide a broad array of musical experiences.

We will perform WITH every chorus this year, preparing repertoire from their countries with their singers and conductors.

We will sing a major work.

We will undertake local outreach singing activities, one of the highlights from the last festival.

And of course, plenty of informal singing at dinners and late into the night.

The Music

For the Alumni concert we will prepare Saturday night under the auspices of the Yale Alumni Chorus, a gala concert in Woolsey Hall will showcase our diverse traditions with four principal components:

We will of course sing a number of selections from traditional Yale choral repertoire.

We will prepare a piece with each visiting chorus and perform it with them. For instance, perhaps *Juramento* with the Cubans or *Kom, du Ijuva* with the Swedes.

ALL choruses will sing a newly commissioned piece composed by current Yale senior Tim Laciano '15. It will incorporate music styles and languages of all the choruses.

We will also prepare and perform a major work, Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Next summer will mark the 50th Anniversary of Bernstein's composition and performance of this fantastic work. We will perform it full force with the Newberry Organ in Woolsey. It is an exuberant sing! The renowned and exquisite second movement juxtaposes a boy soprano singing the psalm of David with a clamorous theme from the men "Why do the nations rage?" The yearning for peace and brotherhood in this great work seems such a timely message for us to share. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCOBWxUZbmA> As the final movement expresses it:

*Behold how good, And
how pleasant it is, For
brethren to dwell
Together in unity.*

Collaborations

We have spoken about collaborations with the choruses, but we will also once again be collaborating deeply on this project with our co-sponsors, the Yale Glee Club and Yale School of Music. Jeff Douma and the YGC are once again working with the International Federation for Choral Music and the American Choral Directors Association to organize a world class symposium. This will occur on the Tuesday, and those wishing to come to New Haven early can attend these sessions. The Symposium leads into the Choral America conference in Boston later that week, so it will be sure to attract many of the country's leading practitioners.

Central to the Festival will be the Conducting 21C program that runs through it. This organization intends "to prepare conductors to be musical agents of change through aspiring for both social justice and artistic excellence." Each day, there will be conducting master classes combining student conductors and each chorus. In addition, we will have the opportunity to team up with these conductors over the course of the festival for outreach programs in the New Haven community.



Activities

We will have our festive meals shared with our international guests, dancing with the Cubans, late night singing with our Jerusalem guests, as well as a unique cabaret, which this year will take place at a wonderful cafe setting near campus.

And the cultural experience goes beyond our own performances—when we are not rehearsing and singing, we will have the ability to attend five choral concerts from our guests. And the Festival also nestles right in the heart of New Haven's International Festival of Arts and Ideas, one of the most important cultural festivals in the country. Although the full lineup for next year has not yet been announced, as luck would have it, there will be a residency by Mark Morris Dance Group, now performing their acclaimed new production of Mozart's arrangement of Handel's *Acis and Galatea*. It will also feature Yale Choral Artists! Details abound for this well-received production at this website: <http://www.acisandgalatea.org>. The *New York Times* review of the performances at the Mostly Mozart Festival this summer called it "absorbing." so prepare to be a sponge and soak in this great work.



While the 2015 New Haven Festival lineup has not been announced yet, last year's lineup can be viewed here: <http://artidea.org/festival>. For those family members who may not be singers themselves but love a great week of culture, this will be one of the most intensely-packed weeks you could imagine!

Inclusiveness and Flexible Options

The Yale International Choral Festival champions inclusiveness and flexibility. We are keeping the base price of the experience low, and we seek out new participants.

One of the hallmarks of the Yale International Choral Festival is its flexibility. In an effort to be as inclusive and accommodating as possible, we will offer a number of flexible options:

Flexible housing: While a stay in Branford College with the international choruses will maximize the campus experience and the opportunity to meet the other singers, those interested in air conditioning and en suite bathrooms may opt for the nearby swing dorm or one of the hotels (where we have a room block). Additionally, singers who live in the region will, of course, have a participation option that enables them to forego campus housing altogether.

Flexible breakfast plan: Lunches and dinners will all be with the other groups in Commons. You will have options for breakfast, including hotel, local restaurant, Commons, or staring longingly at Tycos, wishing the Doodie were there.



Optional activities: There will be a dazzling array of activities each day, from educational to social to cultural. While we will have plenty of structured time for the entire group, there will be other parts of the day to sample master classes, lectures, museums, outreach activities, concerts, and collaborative events with the visiting choruses. Below is some sense of how it will all go down, day by day (schedule and details subject to change).

Tuesday, June 16: Arrival Day

8:00 a.m. **Registration Opens at Sprague Hall**

Come by train, car, air, boat, bike or foot. We are all responsible for getting ourselves to New Haven. The first day will include a full day Symposium, and welcoming of guest choruses. If you would like to arrive the night before (Monday) and stay on campus, you will be able to do so.

9-12:00 a.m. **Symposium Panels**

Featuring some of the top choral leaders in the world, topics will include *Exploring the human impact of singing*; *What happens in rehearsal and performance*; *Expanding our Reach*; and *Crafting Performance*.

12:00 p.m-1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

Each day, we have set aside ample time for lunch which you can choose to take at Commons, or go off with your own small group, perhaps with a few of our international guests, to sample favorite New Haven haunts. (NB: since not all singers will arrive in town by this time, this lunch is not included in the overall package price; you will be able to pay directly at Commons if you wish.)

1:30-4:30 p.m. **Symposium Panels**

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. **Welcome Dinner with all Choruses, Commons.** We will be forming welcome committees to enable each of our international guests to have dedicated teams to welcome them. The group dinners will feature some shared interest tables, and all will be encouraged to mix it up. (NB: This is the first meal included in the program package price.)

8:00 p.m. **Yale Choral Artists in concert at Sprague Hall.**

Welcoming remarks for the Festival will be followed by an exciting opening concert by Jeff Douma's professional group.

Wednesday, June 17

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Rehearsal in Whitney Humanities Center.** Very convenient and comfortable rehearsal space (with plenty of air conditioning for everyone) will be our base of operations for rehearsals.

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. **Back to School!** We are organizing a series of faculty lectures, befitting our festival themes, repertoire and visitors.

Option #1: 21C Conducting Masterclass featuring the Yale Choral Artists

Option #2: Yale faculty member lecture on Jerusalem.

- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. **YAC rehearsal, joined by Jerusalem Youth Chorus**
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. **Dinner in Commons, all choirs**
- 8:00 p.m. **EntreVoces in Concert, Sprague Hall**
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Thursday, June 18

- 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. **YAC Rehearsal, joined by EntreVoces**
- 12:00 - 1:30p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30-3:00pm **21C Masterclass with Entrevoques Sprague Hall**
- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. **YAC rehearsal**
- 5:00 -6 :00 p.m. **Jerusalem Youth Chorus Concert, Sprague Hall**
- 6:00 -7:30 p.m. **Dinner in Commons, all choirs**
- 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Voces Nordicae Concert, Sprague Hall**
- 9:30pm – ?? The evening will be capped off with our **Late Nite Cabaret**. It will take place in a unique outdoor setting at The Neighborhood Music School. Come see many of your friends exhibit their secret talents. This has been known to get a little wild....
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Friday, June 19

- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 am **Rehearsal, to be joined by Voces Nordicae and Lone Larsen**
- 12:00p.m. – 1:30 p.m.: **Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. Three options for the afternoon:
Option #1: 21C Masterclass with Voces Nordicae
Option #2: Yale Lecture
Option #3: International Festival of Arts and Ideas events and tours.
- 5:00 p.m.-6:00p.m.: **National University of Singapore Choir Concert at Sprague Hall**
- 6:00pm – 7:30 p.m. **Dinner**
- 8:00 p.m.– 10:30 p.m. **Optional Mark Morris performance of Acis and Galatea at the Shubert Theater.**
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Saturday, June 20—Show Day!

- 8:00 a.m. Outreach activity with 21C conductors
- 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Rehearsal in Woolsey Hall.** We will be joined by all the visiting choirs to go through the newly commissioned work, as well as our repertoire with each of them.
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Lunch** on your own in New Haven
- 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. Numerous activities in the afternoon
- 6:00pm – 8:00p.m. **Woolsey concert** featuring Yale Alumni Chorus and all guest choruses. The concert will be integrated into the International Festival of Arts and Ideas, and should have a phenomenal crowd.
- 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 pm: **Gala dinner and party** following the concert at a transformed Commons.
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Sunday, June 21

Breakfast will be available in Commons, after which we all say farewell after a tremendous week together!

Registration Process

Sounds AMAZING, right? So how do you sign up? Registration is being handled completely via the Yale Alumni Chorus website and can be accessed at the following link: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2015YICF>

Here are four steps: (Note: Each participant must register separately)

Choose your program. The program fee is \$690 (\$530 for non-singers). The fee includes your participation, music, the gala party, tickets to all Festival concerts and lectures, and all lunches and dinners. Please note, we actively encourage participation across all ages and incomes. If the full cost of participation (and housing and travel) is an obstacle, the Yale Alumni Chorus offers a limited amount of financial support, and will review applications for support of up to \$500. Full information about these grants can be found at the registration links.



Choose your housing option. The four options are:

Stay in Branford for \$39/night (or \$61/night for a single).

Stay in the swing dorm space near Payne Whitney (air-conditioned, en-suite bathrooms) for \$92/night.

Linen packages will be provided for both Branford and Swing Space.

Stay at the Omni (\$179/night), the New Haven Hotel (\$139/night), or the Courtyard by Marriott (\$139/night). We have room blocks at each of these. If you are interested in this option, please contact the hotel directly to make your reservation and indicate you are part of the Yale Alumni Chorus group; it will not go through the Yale Alumni Chorus registration site.

Stay at your own home or a friend's home. No charge, just the obligation to be at morning rehearsals on time!

Select the Mark Morris concert if you wish for Friday; the cost is \$65.

Make a contribution please-- it would help greatly with all the support we are giving to the visiting choruses; see below.

There are several reasons to register for this RIGHT AWAY!! First, we have only a limited number of slots for this event and will fulfill them on a first-come first-served basis. Second, in case your plans change, there is a cancellation provision. You can cancel up until March 15 and receive all monies back except for \$200. (After that time, there is no refund.) Third, as with past Yale Alumni Chorus experiences, a portion of the fee may be tax deductible. So don't wait! Go to <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2015YICF> now!

Many thanks for your consideration. We hope that you will be able to join us for this historic and incredibly exciting program!

Very kind regards,

Matt Ringel '91

Producer, Yale International Choral Festival

Key Dates:

November 19: Registration opens

March: Rehearsal materials (music and recorded parts) will be distributed

March 15: Cancellation date (no refunds after this date)

[March 20-22: Related but optional; Milton Choral Festival]

May 2: Optional Rehearsal in NYC

June 16-20: Yale International Choral Festival

Contribution Opportunities

Beyond your participation, we would also like to ask for your help. We have taken on considerably more expense this time around in supporting the travel expenses of the international choruses which we wanted to have attend the festival. We also are offering financial aid to support more Yale singers to attend, which we have not done before at the Festival. Those expenses are not covered in the program participation fees described above. Moreover, while surveys after the last Festival suggested a willingness to participate at substantially higher fee levels, we have opted not to raise the member participation fee, in order to make the Festival affordable to all. We are hopeful that you will consider making a contribution to the very best of your ability to support the higher expenses.



A range of opportunities and benefits are outlined below. Even a write-in contribution at a different level will help, and we encourage you to designate the chorus of your choice which you personally wish to help (or select general, for no preference). We greatly appreciate anything you can do.

YICF Leadership Circle \$10,000

- Designation in program as a Leader of YICF
- 1/2 page space in the festival program (used at all concerts)
- Participation in official opening ceremony for Yale International Choral Festival
- Opportunity to participate in steering committee calls for Festival planning
- Two reserved tickets front of balcony for choral concerts
- Invitation for two to sponsor reception
- Table sponsor for Chorus of choice at Saturday Evening Gala



Choral Sponsor: \$2,500

Voces Nordicae (Sweden), Entrevoces (Cuba), Jerusalem Youth Chorus, National University of Singapore Choir, Yale Choral Artists

- Opportunity to welcome/introduce the chorus from the stage at the concert
- Eight front-row balcony tickets for the concert when the chorus you are sponsoring is performing
- Acknowledgement as Choral Sponsor in program
- Invitation for two to sponsor reception
- Plaque presentation to the group conductor
- Table sponsor for the Chorus at the Saturday Evening Gala (including Chorus conductor and members)

Patron: \$1,000

- Two reserved tickets front of balcony for choral concerts
- Invitation for two to sponsor reception
- Patron listing in program

Champion: \$500

- Invitation for two to sponsor reception
- Champion listing in program

If you have questions about contributions, or wish to discuss further, please contact John Darrow (john_darrow@sbcglobal.net) or Al Atherton (allan.atherton@yale.edu).

